



January 5, 2015

Dear Superintendent,

Through a proviso passed last year in the General Assembly, the S.C. Education Oversight Committee is able to make available a grant opportunity for all public schools and districts in South Carolina. The grant, the South Carolina Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program, was created for the purpose of encouraging and sustaining partnerships between a community and its local public school district for the implementation of innovative, state-of-the-art education initiatives and models to improve student learning. The initiatives and models funded by the grant must be well designed, based on strong evidence of effectiveness, and have a history of improved student performance. The specifics of the grants are as follows.

Grant Award: May not exceed \$250,000 unless the grants committee finds exceptional circumstances which warrant a greater amount.

The grant is due to the S.C. Education Oversight Committee on February 13, 2015. The grant awards are expected to be announced on March 31, 2015 by a seven-member independent panel.

Criteria: Applications will be awarded based on the following criteria. Schools and districts with a high poverty and low achievement as measured by state accountability system will be given priority of funding.

- (1) The establishment and continuation of a robust community advisory committee to leverage funding, expertise, and other resources to assist the district or school throughout the implementation of the initiatives funded through the Block Grant Program;
- (2) A demonstrated ability to meet the match throughout the granting period;
- (3) A demonstrated ability to implement the initiative or model as set forth in the application;
- (4) An explanation of the manner in which the initiative supports the district's or school's strategic plan required by Section 59-18-1310 of the 1976 Code;
- (5) A comprehensive plan to examine the implementation and measure the impact of the model; and
- (6) A report on implementation problems and successes and impact of the innovation or model.

Grant applications will be reviewed and selected by an independent Grants Committee composed of educators and members of the business community.

Match Requirement: The school or district must match the grant between 10% and 70% to be based on the poverty index of the school. The required match may be met by funds or by in-kind donations, such as technology.

The match required from a grant recipient is based on the poverty of the district or school. No matching amount will exceed more than seventy percent of the grant request or be less than ten percent of the request. Public school districts and schools that have high poverty and low achievement will receive priority for grants when their applications are judged to meet the criteria established for the grant program.

GRANT SUBMISSION: The grant application is due in the office of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee by **Friday, February 13, 2015 at 5:00 pm**. The application is attached. The assurance for award document, which must be completed with the appropriate signatures and notarized, is also attached. Please note the assurance for award must accompany the grant application.

You may scan and email the application and assurances to Paulette Geiger at pgeiger@eoc.sc.gov. If you wish to mail the application and assurances to the EOC, the address is PO Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211. Or, if you wish to hand-deliver the application and assurances to the EOC, our physical address is 1205 Pendleton Street, Room 502, Columbia, SC 29201.

GRANT PERIOD: The grant period will be from April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

The Education Oversight Committee is pleased to be able to work with school districts to promote partnerships between communities and schools to improve student learning. Should you have any questions or need clarification regarding this grant opportunity, please contact Rainey Knight at raineyhk@gmail.com or 843.230.6360.

Sincerely,



Melanie Barton
Executive Director
Education Oversight Committee

c: Grants Application
Assurances For Award document

Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program

This grant application is due in the office of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee on Friday, February 13, 2015 at 5 pm.

A school, schools, or school district applying for the block grant must complete an application that consists of the following components:

A. General Information

School(s) /District Applying for Grant: _____

Address and Phone Number: _____

Contact Name: _____

Title _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Fiscal Agent for Grant:

Contact Name _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Location(s) of Innovation, if different from School(s)/District Applying for Grant:

Location(s): _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Title _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Brief description of initiative(s) or model(s) to be implemented

Number of Students to be Served: _____

2013-14 Poverty Index for Location(s): _____

Total Amount of Grant Funding Requested: _____

Total Amount of Match: _____

B. Proposal Summary

Applicants must submit a one-page narrative that is limited to 2,000 characters and must include the following items:

- Name of school/district applying for funds;
- Total amount of funds requested;
- Total amount of matching funds, including in-kind;
- Description of the initiative or model to be implemented including capacity to be able to sustain the initiative;
- Summary of objectives to be achieved;
- Target number of students to be served; and
- Description of community advisory committee.

C. Project Details (Maximum of 15 pages and 100 points)

The Project Details should include detailed responses to the following questions or issues. These responses will be evaluated and scored to determine grant award recipients. The Project Narrative must be a Word or PDF document with 1" margins at the top, bottom and sides with pages numbered. The Projective Narrative, as outlined below, should not exceed 15 pages.

A. Needs Assessment (10 points)

Describe the need or problem the initiative is to address. Provide the data examined and explain how it was used in assessing student needs. Describe the involvement of the community advisory group, the school/district strategic plan, faculty input, other information gathered.

B. Goals and Objectives (15 points)

Provide a clear statement of the goal(s) of the initiative. Describe the objectives and including the specific expected outcomes and ensuring objectives are measurable. Where appropriate, include changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of students, faculty, community, etc.

C. Initiative Design (20 points)

Describe the grant initiative or model. Outline the strategies and activities to be undertaken. Provide a review of the research on which the initiative is based. Explain how this undertaking is "state of the art" and innovative.

D. Community Advisory Group (20 points)

Provide a description of the involvement of the community group in the school/district's strategic planning and activities. Include the length of time the partnership has been underway and the strengths the community group adds to the process. Describe and list the business groups, community groups, and individuals involved. Explain the role of the advisory group in the grant initiative and implementation and the matching support, including in-kind, to be provided.

E. Leadership/ Implementation (20 points)

1. Leadership. Outline the management structure of the program and how it fits within the school/district. Include key job descriptions and the percent of time the key people overseeing the grant will devote to the project.

2. Implementation. Explain how the initiative will be supported by the school/district and supported by the community advisory group. Provide evidence the school/district and communities have the capacity to initiate and sustain the model. Will other programs, activities be integrated with this grant initiative? Explain how this initiative supports the school/district strategic plan.

3. Budget. Give the TOTAL amount of the grant request for the time period of the grant April 2015-June 2016. Provide evidence of the ability to meet the grant match for this time period.

Provide a budget narrative for April 2015-June 2016 using the following chart.

Budget Summary for April 2015-June 2016

Categories	Grant Funds	Match Funds	Total Cost
Salaries			
Benefits			
Purchased Services (including travel, professional development, etc.)			
Supplies			
Equipment			
Total			

Collaborating Partner(s) and Amount(s) or In-Kind Support provided by each in April 2015-June 2016.

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Provide the details of the grant monies requested in each category above.

Salaries: title of position(s)

Benefits: specifics of benefits requested

Purchased services: specifics of travel, professional development etc.

Supplies: specifics of supplies requested.

Equipment: specifics of equipment requested

Provide the details of the how the money from the collaborating partners would be used to implement the grant.

If the grant program was to be continued for a second year, what grant amounts might be requested that year? Include monies the district would provide in order to **sustain** the grant program for 2016-17. Provide a budget narrative for 2016-2017 using the following chart.

Budget Summary for 2016-17

Categories	Grant Funds	Match Funds	Total Cost
Salaries			
Benefits			
Purchased Services (including travel, professional development, etc.)			
Supplies			
Equipment			
Total			

Collaborating Partner(s) and Amount(s) or In-Kind Support provided by each in 2016-2017.

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F. Evaluation (15 total points)

1. Reporting. Define the methods to be used to report on the impact of the initiative on students and, if appropriate, on faculty and the community. Document measures or evidence to be collected to demonstrate the impact of the initiative or model on student learning and on other factors?

2. Program implementation. Outline the methods to be used and data collected for determining the degree of implementation of program design and any difficulties/successes/lessons learned impacting the achievements of the initiative. Include the district's analysis of the results of the data collected.

Assurance for Award

As the duly authorized representative of

(Please print or type name of applicant)

I certify that:

- A. Funds received from the Education Oversight Community Block Grant for Education Pilot Program and all matching funds will be used exclusively to implement the initiative or model. Funds may not be transferred to any other purpose.
- B. The applicant will provide reports documenting implementation and evaluation as prescribed in any grant award, including financial disclosures as required.
- C. The applicant will agree to present and share its grant project and the accompanying outcomes with its school board, School Improvement Council, the community advisory committee and with local, regional and state educational, community and business groups.
- D. The applicant will agree to make its grant project and results available as a public document.

The signatures below must be notarized. Please note this form MUST be submitted with the grant application.

Chair, School Board of Trustees

Superintendent, School District

Principal of School(s)

Chairman, School Improvement Council(s)

Community Action Committee